

Docket No.: 02-29 US (2860)**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A well plate seal comprising:
a matt having a plurality of spaced apart ~~wells~~ wells for engaging and sealing a plurality of exit ports in a multi well filtration/extraction plate; and
a unidirectional flow control valve disposed in each of the plurality of matt wells for enabling liquid flow out of each exit port only upon application of a pressure differential across each exit port.
2. (Original) The well plate seal according to claim 1 wherein said matt is flexible for facilitating removable engagement with the filtration/extraction plate exit ports.
3. (Original) The well plate seal according to claim 2 wherein said matt and plurality of valves are integrally molded.
4. (Original) The well plate seal according to claim 3 wherein each of the plurality of valves comprise a duck-billed valve.
5. (Original) The well plate seal according to claim 4 wherein said matt includes 96 wells spaced apart in a rectangular pattern.
6. (Original) The well plate seal according to claim 5 wherein each matt well includes tapered sidewalls for facilitating placement of said well plate seal onto extraction plate and sealing each of the exit ports.
7. (Original) A sealing matt for a multi well filtration/extraction plate having a plurality of exit ports, said sealing matt comprising:
a member having a plurality of spaced apart wells for engaging and sealing each of said

Docket No.: 02-29 US (2860)

plurality of exit ports; and

a unidirectional flow control valve disposed in each of the plurality of member wells for enabling liquid flow out of each exit port only upon application of a pressure differential across each exit port.

8. (Original) The sealing matt according to claim 7 wherein said member is flexible for facilitating removable engagement with the filtration/extraction plate exit ports.

9. (Original) The sealing matt according to claim 8 wherein said member and plurality of valve are integrally molded.

10. (Original) The sealing matt according to claim 9 wherein each of the plurality of valves comprising a duck-billed valve.

11. (Original) The sealing matt according to claim 10 wherein said member includes 96 wells spaced apart in a rectangular pattern.

12. (Original) The sealing matt according to claim 11 wherein each member well includes tapered sidewall for facilitating placement of the matt onto the filtration/extraction plate and sealing each of the exit ports.

13. (Original) A well plate seal comprising:

a matt having a plurality of spaced apart wells for engaging and sealing a plurality of exit ports in a multi-well filtration/extraction plate, each well having a tapered sidewall for facilitating placement of said matt onto the filtration/extraction plate and sealing each of the exit ports; and

a unidirectional flow control valve disposed in each of the plurality of matt wells for enabling liquid flow out of each exit port only upon application of a pressure differential across each exit port.

Docket No.: 02-29 US (2860)

14. (Original) The well plate seal accordingly to claim 13 wherein said matt is flexible for facilitating removable engagement with the filtration/extraction plate exit ports.

15. (Original) The well plate seal according to claim 13 wherein said matt and plurality of valve are integrally molded.

16. (Original) The well plate seal according to claim 13 wherein each of the plurality of valves comprise a duck-billed valve.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) Well plate seal apparatus comprising:
 an extraction plate including multiple separation wells for receiving and filtering a biological fluid sample, each well having an exit port;
 a matt having a plurality of spaced apart wells for engaging, each spaced apart well engaging and sealing a corresponding exit port; and
 a unidirectional flow control valve disposed in each of the plurality of matt wells for enabling liquid flow out of each exit port only upon application of a pressure differential across each exit port.

21. (New) The well plate seal according to claim 20 wherein said matt is flexible for facilitating removable engagement with the filtration/extraction plate exit ports.

22. (New) The well plate seal according to claim 21 wherein said matt and plurality of valves are integrally molded.

Docket No.: 02-29 US (2860)

23. (New) The well plate seal according to claim 22 wherein each of the plurality of valves comprise a duck-billed valve.

24. (New) The well plate seal according to claim 23 wherein said matt includes 96 wells spaced apart in a rectangular pattern.

25. (New) The well plate seal according to claim 24 wherein each matt well includes tapered sidewalls for facilitating placement of said well plate seal onto extraction plate and sealing each of the exit ports.